(b) what measures are being taken to modernise Indian Navy for ensuring the safety of Cargo vessels in view of increasing India's foreign trade; and

(c) whether it is a fact that a number of combat planes will be removed from its fleet during next five years on completing their life span?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) All developments having a bearing on the security of the country and its assets are kept under constant observation by Government and appropriate counter-measures are initiated from time to time, to maintain defence preparedness. The Indian Navy is also re-equipped and modernised in keeping with the emerging threat perceptions.

(c) Although all Combat planes of the Navy have estimated life span, their actual withdrawal from service depends on the condition/material state of the planes at the time of withdrawal.

Meteorology Programmes

1785. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Physical Laboratory is receiving PTB (German Government Aid) to augment its standardization of Mateorology programme;

(b) if so, the priority programmes included in Phase-I and the programmes likely to be included in Phase-II within the time-frame;

(c) the amount of money received for equipment and training of manpower; and

(d) whether it is a fact that a private sector company was appointed to look into the planning of the meteorology programme; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under phase-I lasting for the period from 1974-81, areas like Electrical and Electronic Standard, Force Standard and Acoustic Standard were taken up for implementation. Total aid received in terms of equipment and manpower training under this phase was of the order of DM 3.6 million.

Phase-II continued for the period from 1989-94 and it covered areas like Electrical and Electronic Standard, Termometry and Psyometry Standard, Force Standard, Density and Viscosity Standard, Dimensional and Metrology Standard, Photometry and Radiometry Standard, Fluid Flow Standard and Workshop. Total aid received under this phase was of the order of DM 8.1 million.

(d) A private consultancy firm namely M/s. Symatec Associates Pvt. Ltd., Delhi was appointed by PTB, Germany for undertaking study covering Market Analysis, assessment of the business potential and evolving its strategy and structure for the standardisation, Metrology and quality system division of the NPL, New Delhi.

Sub-Standard Drugs

1186. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the ciruclation of a large number of sub-standard drugs in market in different parts of the country; and